

decrying the big spending of this administration. Only yesterday the Senate appropriations committee chairman, Mr. STEVENS, proposed a compromise discretionary cap of \$637 billion in budget authority and \$645 billion in outlays in order to get us out of here. That is \$8 billion more than the President has proposed to spend this year. The blame game is going on now. We have heard just tonight from both sides of the aisle about who is at fault and who is doing what, and as my colleague has pointed out, we spent a good part of this year on how big our tax cuts were going to be.

Completely overlooked in all of this discussion and debate for the last 3 or 4 months is what we are actually doing on spending. According to the Concord Coalition, with what we are about to do under the leadership of the House, two-thirds of this projected surplus for the next 10 years, two-thirds will have already been spent before we adjourn either Saturday, Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. Two-thirds will have been spent. I do not understand my friends in the leadership of this House that somehow believe that you can take individual spending bills absolutely in a blind trust of just saying because we are doing 13 individual spending bills that the sum total does not add up to what we are talking about tonight; just as my friend from Mississippi accurately points out that we barely ran a surplus this past year, and there is credit on both sides of the aisle that are deserving for that, and I readily grant my friends on the other side of the aisle their share of the credit for that. But I do not understand how we can see some of the charts and posters that we will see over the next several days bragging about this history while at the same time we are spending it for next year.

We are going to talk about raising the caps and we are going to try to slip it on to another bill tomorrow, finally acknowledging that the caps that we put in in the 1997 balanced budget agreement were unrealistic. I wish we were going to do more than 1 year. In fact, we will be on the floor tomorrow and the next day and the next day saying, "Let's put another 5-year realistic cap on spending. Let's not just do it for one year." And oh, by the way, when we talk about the spending and the blame game starts around, let me point out, according to Senator JOHN MCCAIN, \$21 billion of this \$645 billion which is \$8 billion more than the President proposed that we spend, \$21 billion of that is for add-on earmarks that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are bragging about on a regular basis.

I think it is going to be interesting when the smoke finally clears and we see where that \$21 billion was spent, how much that is going to detract from the \$2.3 billion non-Social Security surplus that we will have to deal with in

the next Congress, and as we listen to both candidates for President, where are we going to find the money to have the tax cuts that one proposes or the spending increases that the other proposes when this Congress will have already spent the money? And as my colleague from Mississippi points out, we are getting carried away with these surpluses. We just barely got into the black this last year when we consider all of the obligations that we have in this body to future generations.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Again for those of you on the West Coast, this is almost 10 minutes to midnight in Washington so I not only thank my colleague for staying up so late but all the employees of the House.

I know there is a lot of mistrust about government. I would ask people who question these numbers to access their computers www.publicdebt.treas.gov and look for yourself. One of the big lies is that the public debt is going down. The fact of the matter is in the 1 year between September 30 of 1999 and September 30 of 2000, the public debt increased from \$5,656,271,000,000 to \$5,674,178,000,000. I realize that is pretty mind-boggling for almost everyone, but that is what it looks like on a chart. It continues to go up. And again as long as we owe money, we have to pay interest on that debt just like every other business and every other individual and that interest payment is \$1 billion a day. If you want to access these numbers, it is www.publicdebt.treas.gov/opd.opdpenny.htm.

Folks, that is what your debt looks like today. So before any of my colleagues talk about huge spending increases or any presidential candidate, or any of my colleagues start talking about huge tax cuts, this is what we owe. If you were to look at this in 1980, it would have read about \$1 trillion instead of 5. That means that \$4.674 trillion of that debt has been added in this generation's lifetime.

I as a father am not going to stick my kids with my bills. I would ask that those people who seek the highest office of the land, the President of the United States, do not stick their kids with their bills. I would ask that my fellow Congressmen and the Members of the other body, do not forget these numbers and let us not stick the next generation of Americans with this generation's bills. Before we talk about big spending increases, before we talk about big tax cuts, let us pay off the debt that has been run up in our lifetime and let us start defending the Nation in a way that in reality matches the rhetoric.

I would tell the gentleman from Texas that when the Republican majority took over Congress, there were 392 ships in the American fleet. Today the number of ships in the United States Navy are 318. They talk about the big

defense increases, but as a matter of fact the last 6 years that the Democrats ran the House, we funded 56 new warships. In the first 6 years that they have run the House, they funded only 33. For all the rhetoric about being tough on defense, good for defense, the Republican Congress built fewer ships in their first 6 years than the Democrats did in our last 6. Even this year they talk about President Clinton being weak on defense. President Clinton asked the Congress to fund eight ships. The Congress only funded six. The United States Navy is now the smallest it has been since 1933. So in addition to not balancing the budget, they have failed to look out for the common defense.

Mr. Barbour, I hope you are watching tonight. I have still got your ad; you have still got my letter. You still owe me a million dollars. I realize you found a judge up here in Washington that said, yeah, that wasn't really for real, but when someone runs a statement in a national publication challenging people to prove them false and have their statements proved false not just for 1 year or even 2 years but for 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years running, then I have proven your statement false. And if you are a man of your word and if your party is a party of its word since you are making such a big deal of credibility and honesty and trustworthiness, then I think you ought to keep your word and honor your pledge. For my part, after I paid the lawyer that I had to go hire because you sued me, the remainder will go to the University of Southern Mississippi so we can educate a lot of good kids back home.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of district-related business.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and October 25 on account of personal business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLECZKA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.